

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s) CT	
	10/823,285	STACHOWIAK, JOHN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DHIRU R. PATEL	2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/13/04 and 3/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>0305</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>0305</u> 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

Dhiru R. Patel
315105

**DHIRU R. PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Ferrera on 3/2/05.

In the claims:

1 (Currently amended) An apparatus for securing a box cover to a meter box, said apparatus comprising:

a clamping member, an engagement member, wherein said [clamping member] engagement member further comprises a clamp, a clamp actuating member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means; and a lock housing having a second securing means.

8 (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said clamp actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of [an] said engagement member on a body portion of said clamping member.

10 (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein one end of said clamp actuating member receives an input force and rotates about an axis established by disposition of [an] said engagement member disposed on said clamping member, and

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then translates a mechanical force to an opposite end of said clamp actuating member that is greater than the input force.

15 (Currently amended) A method for securing a box cover to a meter box, said method

Comprising:

disposing a clamping member over a wall portion of said meter box, disposing an engagement member on a body portion of said clamping member, wherein said clamping member comprises a clamp, a clamp actuating member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means; disposing a lock housing in functional cooperation with said clamping member, wherein said lock housing comprises a second securing means; and securing said clamping member using said lock housing.

21 (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising rotating said clamp actuating member about a rotational axis established by disposition of [an] said engagement member disposed on [a] said body portion of said clamping member.

22 (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

delivering an input force to one end of said clamp actuating member so that said clamp actuating member rotates about a rotational axis established by disposition of [an] said engagement member on said clamping member; and translating said input force into a mechanical clamping force that is greater than the input force.

2. Cancel claim 27.

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3. ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1-26 are the inclusion therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation of a clamping member, an engagement member, wherein said engagement member further comprises a clamp, a clamp actuating member, and a fastening shelf having a first securing means; and a lock housing having a second securing means (for claims 1-14), and claims 15-26 are method counter part of product claims 1-14.

The previously listed limitation is neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other prior art cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fisher, Shallbetter, Eickman, Fennel, Sloop, Byrd, Howell, Byrd, Newman, Green, Soyfertis, Jeon and Grday disclose a meter box similar to applicant's claimed invention.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHIRU R. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-1983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 6:30 TO 4:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1982. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dhiru R Patel
DHIRU R PATEL 3/5/05
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831
